

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

## 1. A storage device comprising:

detecting unit adapted to detect whether the  
storage device has been connected to an information  
5 processing apparatus; and

selecting unit adapted to select a first  
operating mode, in which the storage device operates  
as a storage device dedicated to the information  
processing apparatus, if the storage device has been  
10 connected to the information processing apparatus, and  
selecting a second operating mode, in which the  
storage device operates as a file server, if the  
storage device has not been connected to the  
information processing apparatus.

15 2. The device according to claim 1, further  
comprising communication unit adapted to enable  
communication with an access point in a network;

wherein said communication unit is disabled if  
the first operating mode has been selected.

20 3. The device according to claim 1, wherein said  
selecting unit performs the selection of the first and  
second operating modes automatically based upon result  
of detection by said detecting unit.

4. The device according to claim 3, wherein said  
25 first operating mode has a priority higher than that  
of the second operating mode, and in a case where said  
detecting unit has detected connection to the

information processing apparatus, the storage device operates in the first operating mode even in an environment in which the storage device is capable of operating in the second operating mode.

- 5 5. A processing method in a storage device, comprising the steps of:

detecting whether the storage device has been connected to an information processing apparatus; and

- selecting a first operating mode, in which the  
10 storage device operates as a storage device dedicated to the information processing apparatus, if the storage device has been connected to the information processing apparatus, and selecting a second operating mode, in which the storage device operates as a file  
15 server, if the storage device has not been connected to the information processing apparatus.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the information processing apparatus includes communication unit adapted to enable communication  
20 with an access point in a network and

wherein said communication unit is disabled if the first operating mode has been selected.

7. A storage device comprising:

- receiving unit adapted to receive control  
25 information that has been transmitted from an information processing apparatus; and

selecting unit adapted to select a first

operating mode in which the storage device operates as a storage device dedicated to the information processing apparatus, or a second operating mode in which the storage device operates as a file server, in accordance with the control information.

8. The device according to claim 7, further comprising communication unit adapted to enable communication with an access point in a network;

wherein said communication unit is disabled if the first operating mode has been selected.

9. A processing method in a storage device, comprising the steps of:

receiving control information that has been transmitted from an information processing apparatus;

and

selecting a first operating mode in which the storage device operates as a storage device dedicated to the information processing apparatus, or a second operating mode in which the storage device operates as a file server, in accordance with the control information.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the information processing apparatus includes communication unit adapted to enable communication with an access point in a network and

wherein said communication unit is disabled if the first operating mode has been selected.